

LATEST BOOZE BINGE LANDS KIM DELANEY IN PSYCH WARD

Mother's Day visit
with son triggers
breakdown

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

NYPD Blue" star Kim Delaney landed in a psych ward after a tearful Mother's Day confrontation with her family — who begged her to get help for her addiction to booze.

The ENQUIRER has learned exclusively that the troubled Emmy winner, who's 44, suffered a major booze relapse when she failed to get a TV role in the upcoming fall season. "It's a very, very sad situation," a longtime friend of Kim told The ENQUIRER.

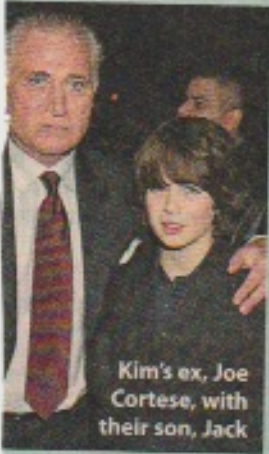
"Kim's been to rehab several times. She's thrown herself into the AA

program. She even hired a sobriety coach. But every time she gets close to beating this thing, she slides back."

The former "CSI: Miami" star's latest binge began with a few drinks on St. Patrick's Day and escalated from there.

"After she realized she wouldn't be in New York in May talking to network executives about a new show for the fall season, Kim was downing up to two bottles of vodka a day," her friend confided. "She shares custody of her son Jack and she feels her career is over. She said she started to drink again to dull the pain.

"This time she began drinking first



thing in the morning and continued all day. She wasn't eating. She wasn't even getting out of bed. She was pale, weak and painfully thin. She had another relapse on Mother's Day."

Shaken, Kim — who was busted for driving under the influence in 2002 — agreed to get help.

With her ex-husband Joe Cortese at her side, she was admitted to the emergency room at UCLA Medical Center in Westwood on May 16, according to another family friend.

She was later transferred to a

neuropsych ward room where she was scheduled to remain until she was ready to begin detox. "Kim seemed scared," said the friend. "She kept making Joe promise he wouldn't leave her there indefinitely. I think she's afraid she may be locked up for good."

And just days after going in, Kim's friends said she was determined to sign out and leave the facility.

Her longtime friend added: "Everyone's rooting for Kim, but ultimately it's up to her whether she stays sober or not."

Kim's ex, Joe Cortese, with their son, Jack